

July 12, 2005



Obit: Bill Brotherton

- Memorial Services for Bill Brotherton, 79, of Groton will be at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, at the United Methodist Church in Groton. Rev. Jan Price will officiate.
- Visitation will be held at the funeral chapel from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday with the family present from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. A Masonic Service will be held. Visitation will continue on Thursday for one hour prior to services at the church.
- Bill died on July 9, 2005, at Avera St. Lukes Hospital in Aberdeen following a courageous battle with cancer.
- Billie Paul Brotherton was born in Charleston, AR, on May 5, 1926, to Paul and Viola (Robins) Brotherton. Starting at the age of twelve, Bill worked at many jobs to help support his mother and sister. He attended school in North Kansas City, MO, graduating in May 1944. Later that year, Bill married Leona Kate Darr of Charles

ton, AR, and entered the U.S. Army. During World War II, Bill served honorably in the South Pacific and Japan. Following the war, Bill resided in Ventura County, CA, with Leona until her death in 1960. In June 1963, he married Clarabelle (Voight) Peterman. Bill's faith, strength, and devotion were instrumental in the successful blending of the two families.

- For 38 years, Bill worked at Chase Brothers Dairy, a large establishment in California, where he advanced to the position of Sales Distribution Manager. During this time, Bill also worked as a barber, and owned and operated Camarillo Western Wear. In 1990, he and Clare retired and moved to Groton, where he became active in the community.
- Bill joined the United Methodist Church, serving as President of the Church Council and Communion Steward. He also held active positions on the Trustees and Audit Committees. One of his proudest achievements was the Service Award he received from the United Methodist Women; he was among the first men to receive such an honor.
- In 1993, Bill was elected to the Groton City Council, on which he served until the time of his death. He was a member of the Groton Masons, from whom he twice received the Citizen of the Year award. He was also an officer of the Diana Chapter of the Eastern Star.
- Bill loved all children, and often worked behind the scenes on projects to benefit them. One example is his service on the Tiger's Den Youth Center Board. His lifetime of volunteerism was rewarding to him and was deeply appreciated. In California, he had been made an honorary employee of the local hospital. In South Dakota, additional activities included representing Groton in the Flags Across America Project. He also volunteered for several years at the local nursing home barbering for male residents.
- Bill enjoyed hunting, gardening, and country music. In earlier years, he had been a pilot, owning his own plane. His special love was fishing, and South Dakota turned out to be the perfect place for that. Groton held a special place in Bill's heart, and it was in Groton where Bill received great personal fulfillment through community activities and the friendships he cultivated.
- Grateful for having shared his life are his wife, Clare of Groton; his children, Bill (Trudy) Brotherton of Camarillo, CA, Karen (Tom) Canady of Hot Springs Village, AR, Craig (Kathy) Peterman of Ventura, CA, Deborah (Michael) Willette of Moorpark, CA; one sister, Betty Jean Metcalf of Charleston, AR; nine grandchildren, Ann (Robert) Bentsen, Sally (Brian) LeBlanc, Tommie Canady, Casey (Carol) Canady, Kirsten Peterman, Timothy Peterman, Bryan (Penny) Wolfe, Michelle Willette, Carey Willette; and seven great-grandchildren, Justin and Katelyn LeBlanc, Tommie and Kaden Canady, Payton Canady, and Dustin and Christopher Wolfe.
- Preceding him in death were his parents and his first wife.
- Honorary Casketbearers will be members of the Groton City Council.
- Memorials may be directed to North Plains Hospice, 305 South State Street, Aberdeen, SD, 57401, or to the United Methodist Church Building Fund, 906 North 1st Street, Groton, SD, 57445.